

Message Text

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12

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SUBJ: EX-PRESIDENT LLERAS RESTREPO ADVISES AGAINST UNILATERAL
RECOGNITION OF CUBA BY COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 10191

1. EX-PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS RESTREPO HAS RESTREPO HAS ADDED
HIS INFLUENTIAL VOICE TO THOSE ARGUING AGAINST UNILATERAL
RECOGNITION OF CUBA BY COLOMBIA AND IN FAVOR OF PRESERVING THE
INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

2. IN A LENGTHY EDITORIAL TITLED "CONCERNING THE MISFORTUNE IN
QUITO" IN THE NOV 23 ISSUE OF HIS WEEKLY NUEVA FRONTERA, LLERAS
SAID, REFERRING TO A POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA "IN
OUR OPINION IT WOULD CONSTITUTE A GRAVE ERROR FOR OUR COUNTRY
TO IGNORE A RESOLUTION STILL IN FORCE." (ALTHOUGH OTHER COUNTRIES
HAVE VIOLATED THE RESOLUTION,) "SUCH BEHAVIOR IS NOT IN LINE
WITH OUR DIPLOMATIC TRADITION OR IN OUR BEST INTERESTS."

3. "COLOMBIA HAS MAINTAINED A CONSTANT TRADITION OF RESPECT FOR
TREATIES AND NOW MORE THAN EVER SHOULD BE FAITHFUL TO IT. TO
BREAK (THIS TRADITION) TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA WOULD
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BE A TREMENDOUS ERROR."

4. DISCUSSING A POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF RIO, LLERAS STATES "WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE COUNTRY IS NOT PREPARED TO DETERMINE WHICH CHANGES IT WANTS OR TO RUN THE RISK THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE MIGHT LEAD TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THIS INSTRUMENT. THE WISE COURSE IS TO ADMIT NOW, DISPASSIONATELY, THE FAILURE OF AN INITIATIVE (COLOMBIA'S ROLE AT QUITO) THAT, IN OUR OPINION, WAS JUSTIFIED BUT THAT WAS CONDUCTED WITHOUT THE NECESSARY PREPARATION AND TO CONTINUE SEEKING AGREEMENT WITH THE OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. PATIENTLY, WITHOUT ACTS OF EXASPERATION TOTALLY WITHOUT PURPOSE".

5. AFTER REVIEWING A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION BY SOME STATES IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS, AND THE ROLE OF THE OAS IN DETERRING OR CONDEMNING THESE INTERVENTIONS, LLERAS STATED, "THE US AUTHORITIES DID NOT RECALL THESE PRECEDENTS WITH REGARD TO THE COOPERATION THEY GAVE TO THE ABORTIVE INVASION OF THE BAY OF PIGS. NEITHER DID CUBA REMEMBER THEM ON SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT OCCASIONS. AND, OF COURSE, THE US AGAIN FORGOT THEM TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE CIA OPERATES MORE OR LESS COVERTLY OR OVERTLY IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. WHAT HAS BEEN REVEALED ABOUT THE CHILEAN CASE IS SUFFICIENT PROOF OF THIS CONDEMNABLE BEHAVIOUR."

6. THE EDITORIAL CLOSES BY QUESTIONING THE VIABILITY OF AN INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WITHOUT THE US AS A MEMBER, CITING ASSISTANT SEC ROGERS "HYPOTHETICAL ARGUMENT" THAT THE US LEAVE THE OAS. LLERAS PROMISES TO EXAMINE THIS QUESTION IN FUTURE ARTICLES.

7. ALTHOUGH MOST RECENT NON COMMUNIST EDITORIAL AND POLITICAL COMMENT HAS ADVISED AGAINST UNILATERAL RECOGNITION OF CUBA THERE HAVE BEEN SOME EXCEPTIONS. THE LATEST WAS BY LIBERAL CONGRESSMAN FABIO LOZANO SIMONELLI, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE COLOMBIAN MISSION TO HAVANA FOR THE SIGNING OF THE COLOMBIA-CUBA AIR PIRACY AGREEMENT (BOGOTA 6640.). IN A BRIEF DECLARATION TO THE LEFT-LEANING BOGOTA DAILY EL PERIODICO (NOV 25) LOZANO LAMENTED THE OUTCOME OF THE QUITO CONFERENCE AND SAID IT WAS UP TO THE PRESIDENT AND FONMIN "TO ANALYZE THE NEW SITUATION OF THE OAS." LOZANO CONTINUED "ONE HOPES THAT THE ROAD CHOSEN WITH ALL DUE MEDITATION LEADS TO THE RENEWAL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS WHICH SEEKS TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A NEW LATIN AMERICAN REALITY AND WITH THE SPIRIT OF BOTH PEOPLES."

8. PROBABLY THE STRONGEST ANTI-OAS AND ANTI-US NON-COMMUNIST REACTION APPEARS IN LEFTIST WEEKLY MAGAZINE ALTERNATIVA DEL PUEBLO, NOV 25. AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE OAS IS A CORPSE" CHARGES THAT THE US HAS USED THE OAS AS A TOOL FOR DIRECT INTERVENTION BY THE US IN LATAM COUNTRIES, AND QUOTES FIDEL

CASTRO'S PHRASE "IT IS THE COLONIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE U.S." TO DESCRIBE THE OAS. THE MAGAZINE ALSO LISTS 17 ALLEGED INTERVENTIONS IN LATAM SINCE 1954.

9. A SENIOR FONMIN OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE DOUBTED VERY STRONGLY THAT COLOMBIA WOULD VIOLATE ITS OWN TRADITION AND ACT UNILATERALLY WITH REGARD TO CUBA, ESPECIALLY SINCE NO COLOMBIAN VITAL INTERESTS WERE INVOLVED. HE SAID IT WAS THE GENERAL OPINION IN THE FONMIN (PROBABLY NOT INCLUDING FONMIN LIEVANO) THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AND THAT THE NECESSARY HOMEWORK HAD NOT BEEN DONE. THE OFFICIAL CLAIMED THAT COLOMBIA HAD BEEN PRESSED BY VENEZUELA INTO TAKING A LEADING ROLE ALONG WITH VENEZUELA AND COSTA RICA IN SPONSORING THE QUITO CONFERENCE.

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